Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04998 260823Z

12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 OPR-01 DODE-00 L-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 /038 W

PR 260736Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 4998

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: AEMR, CB, TH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SUBJECT: THAI EVACUATION PLANS FROM PHNOM PENH

REF: PHNOM PENH 5413

- 1. WHEN I CALLED ON ROYAL THAI ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA MARCH 23, KRIT DISCUSSED THAI EVACUATION PLANS FROM PHNOM PENH. HE SAID THAT THE THAI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED MARCH 21 TO RECALL THE AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS AND TO LEAVE TWO OR THREE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF ON HAND IN PHNOM PENH. HE SAID THERE WERE ADDITIONALLY ABOUT THIRTY THAI MILITARY IN PHNOM PENH IN EXTRA-LEGAL STATUS. THE THAI PLANNED TO EVACUATE HALF OF THEM EARLY THIS WEEK.
- 2. WE CHECKED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SEE WHETHER THE RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF ROCKETING IN PHNOM PENH HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A CHANGE IN RTG PLANS. AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US MARCH 26 THAT THE CURRENT RTG PLAN IS TO REDUCE ITS STAFF IN PHNOM PENH BY ROTATING THEM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 04998 260823Z

BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND BANGKOK. THE CIVILIAN STAFF

IN PHNOM PENH WILL THEREBY GO DOWN FROM SIX TO TWO OR THREE, AND MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM 23 TO ABOUT TEN. THE RTG WILL THUS MAINTAIN A STAFF OF NOT MORE THAN 15 PERSONS IN PHNOM PENH - A SIZE WHICH IT CONSIDERS "MANAGEABLE" FOR PURPOSES OF EMERGENCY EVACUATION. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THE CIVILIAN STAFF IS ALREADY PRACTICING THIS REDUCTION BY ROTATION, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD BEGUN TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE.

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To: PHNOM PENH

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